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REMARKS

The present Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-46 are pending in the application. Claims 1-46 have been rejected. Claim 1 has been amended.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102(a) Rejection Based on Lakhotkin

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15, 17, 19-33, 35, 37-38, 40-42, 45 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), as being anticipated by EP patent No. 1158070 to Lakhotkin ("Lakhotkin I") and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,800,383 to Lakhotkin ("Lakhotkin II"). Since Lakhotkin I and Lakhotkin II (referred to herein collectively as "Lakhotkin") both claim priority from PCT/RU99/00037 Applicants will discuss the two references and the two rejections together. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections of claims 1-15, 17, 19-33, 35, 37-38, 40-42, 45 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a or e), as being anticipated by Lakhotkin in view of the remarks that follow.

Applicants' independent claim 1 as amended includes, inter alia, "a self sharpening cutting tool comprising: a cutting edge made of a first material, the cutting edge being coated only on one side thereof with a coating ... wherein the coating has a layered or laminar microstructure aligned substantially parallel to the coated side of the cutting edge".

Lakhotkin does not disclose a self sharpening cutting tool.

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In addition Lakhotkin does not disclose a device having a cutting edge made of a first material, the cutting edge being coated only on one side with a coating, where the coating has a layered or laminar microstructure aligned substantially parallel to the coated side of the cutting edge.

Each of these elements is required in Applicants' independent claim 1 as amended.

Applicants' independent claims 19 includes, inter alia, "a method of manufacturing a self sharpening cutting tool, the method comprising: providing a cutting edge made of a first material or materials; and coating only one side of the cutting edge with a coating ...; wherein the coating has a layered or laminar microstructure aligned substantially parallel to the coated side of the cutting edge".

Lakhotkin does not disclose a method of manufacturing a self sharpening cutting tool, or providing a cutting edge made of a first material or materials; and coating only one side of the cutting edge with a coating having a layered or laminar microstructure aligned substantially parallel to the coated side of the cutting edge.

Each of these elements is required in Applicants' independent claim 19.

In order for a reference to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. 102, the reference must teach every element of the claim. As discussed, Lakhotkin does not teach every element of either of Applicants' independent claims 1 as amended and 19. Applicants therefore assert that independent claims 1 and 19 are allowable over Lakhotkin.

Each of dependent claims 2-15, 17, 20-33, 35, 37-38, 40-42, 45 and 46 depends directly or indirectly from one of independent claims 1 and 19 and includes all of the elements of the claim from which it depends; therefore each of these claims is allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-15, 17, 19-33, 35, 37-38, 40-42, 45 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by either Lakhotkin reference.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection Based on Braun

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by International Publication Number WO 97/39862 to Braun ("Braun").

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Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection of claims 1-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Braun in view of the remarks that follow.

Applicants' independent claims 1 as amended and 19 recite that, inter alia, "the coating has a layered or laminar microstructure aligned substantially parallel to the coated side of the cutting edge".

Braun does not disclose a coating which has a layered or laminar microstructure aligned substantially parallel to the coated side of the cutting edge as is required in Applicants' independent claims 1 as amended and 19. Braun discloses multiple coating layers that are aligned with the cutting edge on a macroscopic scale. In Braun, each of the individual coating layers itself has a columnar or amorphous crystalline microstructure. The coating layers of Braun either have a columnar or an amorphous crystalline microstructure.

In order for a reference to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), the reference must teach every element of the claim. Applicants assert that Braun does not teach every element of Applicants' independent claims 1 as amended and 19. Applicants therefore assert that independent claims 1 and 19 are allowable over Braun.

Each of dependent claims 2-18 and 20-46 depends directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 as amended and 19 and includes all of the elements of the claim from which it depends, therefore each of these claims are allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Braun.

Conclusion

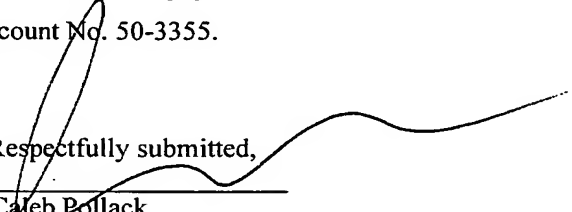
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Response, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

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The fee for the one month extension of time is being requested separately. No additional fees are believed to be due associated with this paper. However, if any such fees are due, please charge such fees to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


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